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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

ПРАКТИЧЕСКОЕ ПОСОБИЕ
для студентов специальности «Лесное хозяйство» 1 – 75 01 01

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Практическое пособие адресовано студентам 2 курса биологического факультета специальности «Лесное хозяйство». Целью пособия является развитие навыков чтения и говорения на основе учебного материала специальных текстов.

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Содержание

ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Пособие предназначено для студентов биологического факультета специальности “Лесное хозяйство” 2 курса обучения и ставит целью научить будущих инженеров лесного хозяйства читать научную и научно-популярную литературу по специальности, привить им навыки самостоятельной работы над языком. Пособие рассчитано как на аудиторную, так и самостоятельную работу студентов.

Пособие включает 3 раздела, каждый из которых состоит из 4 текстов для разных видов чтения и последующего развития навыков чтения и говорения. Тексты предназначены как для аудиторной, так и для самостоятельной работы студентов на занятиях и в качестве домашних заданий.

Тексты отобраны из оригинальной научно-популярной литературы, адаптированы с учётом реальных знаний студентов 2 курса, носят познавательный характер. Они снабжены системой дотекстовых упражнений, целью которых является снятие языковых трудностей, формирование потенциального словаря, лексических и грамматических навыков чтения. Послетекстовые задания направлены на проверку качества понимания прочитанного.

При подготовке пособия авторы руководствовались программой по английскому языку для студентов специальности “Лесное хозяйство” и учитывали специфику изучения языка на неязыковых факультетах.

Unit 1 The Life Of Trees

Text 1 Changing with the seasons

Vocabulary

Hardwood – деревья твёрдых пород;
to undergo changes – подвергаться изменениям;
broadleaf trees – лиственные деревья;
dormant – спящий, находящийся в состоянии покоя;
to put to good use – воспользоваться;
a time of bounty – щедрая пора;
drought – засуха;
fall (= autumn) – осень;

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

Change, especially, over, course, environment, during, temperature, low, horizon, ground, to use, to lie, to increase, drought, reserve, photosynthesis, fall, to stabilize, tissue, to develop, strength.

Ex. 2 Give the English equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Лиственные деревья, окружающая среда, зимой, весной, летом, осенью, температура падает, низкий, горизонт, расти, находиться в состоянии покоя, развиваться, засуха, фрукты и овощи созревают, приход зимы, показывать (демонстрировать).

Ex. 3 Read the text.

Changing with the seasons

Trees – especially hardwoods – undergo many changes over the course of the year. These changes are adaptations to the harshness of the environment.

During the winter, the temperature drops and the sun rides low on the horizon. Both ground and water lie frozen. The broadleaf trees stand bare. The trees don't grow or reproduce. They are dormant.

In the spring, the temperature increases, melting off the snow. There's plenty of water in the ground and the sun shines brightly. It's a time of bounty that trees put to good use to develop, grow, and produce flowers and leaves.

Summer brings hot, sunny weather, but it's often a time of drought. Trees take this time to store reserves using photosynthesis to stabilize the new tissue that has developed.

When fall comes around, fruit ripens and trees start preparing for the arrival of winter. Days grow shorter and the sun loses some of its strength. Leaves can no longer carry out photosynthesis and start to display their festive fall colours.

When winter arrives, trees become dormant and the cycle begins again.

Comprehension check

Ex. 4 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 In winter, broadleaf trees stand bare.

2 In spring, the temperature decreases, the water lies frozen.

3 When summer comes around, fruit ripens.

4 In summer, days grow shorter and the sun loses some of its strength.

5 In autumn, trees start to display their festive colours.

6 In winter, leaves can no longer carry out photosynthesis.

Ex. 5 Choose the correct variant.

1 Trees – especially (hardwoods / softwoods) – undergo many changes over the course of the year.

2 During the winter, the temperature (increases / drops) and the sun rides low on the horizon.

3 In spring, there's (plenty of / little) water in the ground and the sun shines brightly.

4 Spring is a time of (bounty / drought).

5 When fall comes around, fruit ripens and trees start preparing for the (departure / arrival) of winter.

6 When winter arrives, trees become (dormant / full of energy).

Ex. 6 Insert the missing information.

1 Trees – especially hardwoods – undergo many … .

2 These changes are adaptations to meet the tree's needs and appear in response to … .

3 In winter, trees are … . They don't … .

4 It's a time of bounty that trees put to good use to develop, grow and produce … .

5 Trees take this time to store reserves using photosynthesis to stabilize … .

6 When fall comes around, fruit ripens and trees start preparing for … .

Ex. 7 Answer the questions.

1 What happens to a tree during the winter?

2 What weather changes occur in spring?

3 Which of the four seasons is considered to be the most favourable for trees?

4 What for do trees take the time of summer?

5 How do trees look like in autumn?

6 During which of the four seasons do trees are dormant?

Text 2 Parts of a tree

Vocabulary

Width – ширина;

height – высота;

skyward – вверх, к небу;

abundance – изобилие, избыток;

plague – чума;

thinning – истощение;

bud – почка;
to swell – набухать;
sponge – губка;
to anchor (to anchor the tree in the soil) – удерживать (удерживать дерево в почве);

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

Both, height, width, skyward, to support, increasing, to occur, abundance, super biological, drought, excessive, insect plagues, disease, injury, August, since, science, throughout, entire, however, essential, tissue, sponge, to serve, to anchor, windstorm.

Ex. 2 Give the English equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Высота, тянуться к небу, увеличивающийся, количество, избыток воды в почве, событие, окружающая среда, довольно суровый, засуха, чрезмерные дожди, насекомое, чума, истощение, загрязнение, находящийся в состоянии покоя, набухать, защищать от, пожар, сухой, мёртвый, поглощать воду, ткань, снежная буря.

Ex. 3 Read the text and match its paragraphs with the list of tree parts given below: branches, roots, bark, buds, annual rings.

Parts of a tree

1 A tree grows both in height and width each year. These parts of a tree stretch skyward to get as much light as possible. They grow to support themselves and an increasing number of leaves. Most of this growth occurs in the spring, well before summer officially arrives, because there is an abundance of water in the soil.

2 They are super biological indicators which reveal the events that have occurred in our environment. Life can be pretty tough on a tree! Drought, excessive rain, fire, insect plagues and disease epidemics, injuries, thinning, air pollution – everything leaves mark on these parts of a tree.

3 When do you think they appear on trees? In the spring? Or maybe at the end of winter? Well, trees actually form them during the summer, usually in August! Since trees are dormant during the winter, they don't have the energy to grow structures that are that small and complex! These parts of a tree aren't very apparent in the fall and throughout the entire winter. In the spring, however, they swell and are ready to open.

4 This is a very important part of a tree. It's a little bit like our skin. Its main purpose is to protect the tree. It protects the tree against disease, insects, fire, drought, injury, and animals. Without this essential part a tree will get dry and dead.

5 This part of a tree has many functions. It, or it’s better to say – they, absorb water from the soil. At the same time, they absorb minerals that the tree uses to grow tissues. That is they act a little like a sponge. They also serve to anchor the tree in the soil so that the first windstorm doesn't blow it over!

Comprehension check

Ex. 4 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 Most of the growth of branches occurs in the spring, well before summer officially arrives.

2 Buds are super biological indicators which reveal the events that have occurred in our environment.

3 Buds appear on trees in spring.

4 The main function of annual rings is protective.

5 Tree roots can be compared to a sponge.

6 Bark shows the age of a tree.

Ex. 5 Choose the correct variant.

1 There is (a lack / an abundance) of water in the soil in spring.

2 Buds appear on a tree in (summer / autumn).

3 In winter the tree is rather (weak / strong) to produce buds.

4 Tree roots (absorb / deliver) water to other parts of a tree.

5 Most of the growth of branches occurs in the (fall / spring).

6 Tree roots are often referred to as (a sponge / super biological indicators).

Ex. 6 Insert the missing information.

1 A tree grows both in height … .
2 Branches of a tree stretch skyward to get … .
3 … – everything leaves mark on these parts of a tree.
4 In the spring, buds swell and are … .
5 Bark protects the tree against … .
6 Tree roots serve to anchor the tree in the soil so that the first windstorm …

Ex. 7 Answer the questions.

1 What are the main parts of a tree?
2 What are the main functions of branches?
3 For what reason are annual rings known as super biological indicators?
4 Why do buds appear on a tree in August?
5 Why are tree roots often compared to a sponge?
6 What disasters does the bark protect a tree against?

Ex.8 Read and translate the supplementary text

How do leaves change color?

As the Earth makes its 365-day journey around the sun, some parts of the planet will get fewer hours of sunlight at certain times of the year. In those regions, the days become shorter and the nights grow longer. The temperature slowly drops. Autumn comes, and then winter.

Trees respond to the decreasing amount of sunlight by producing less and less chlorophyll. Eventually, a tree stops producing chlorophyll. When that happens, the carotenoid already in the leaves can finally show through. The leaves become a bright rainbow of glowing yellows, sparkling oranges and warm browns.

Text 3 Trees in winter

Vocabulary

Beech – бук, буковое дерево;
oak – дуб;
fir – пихта, ель;
spruce – ель;
cedar – кедр;
tamarack – лиственница американская;
pine – сосна;
unawares (to catch unawares) – неожиданно, врасплох (застать врасплох);
shrivel (shriveled leaves) – сморщиваться, съёживаться (сморщенные листья);
to spot – замечать;
to rot – гнить;
to decompose – разлагаться;
nutrients – питательные вещества;
germinate – прорастать;
to come up with – придумать;

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

To appear, actually, entire, beech, unawares, to shrivel, surrounding, to decompose, nutrient, sudden temperature changes, to develop, development, conifer, coniferous, needle, fir, spruce, essential refuge, source, wildlife, branch, mature, enough, squirrel.

Ex. 2 Give the English equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Появляться, в конце зимы, всю зиму, набухать, деревья твёрдой породы, лиственные деревья, ронять листья, ясень, дуб, гнить, разлагаться, через много лет, питательные вещества, хвойные деревья, игла, ель, пихта, источник питания, дикая природа, в отличие от лиственных деревьев, цвести, семя, наносить серьёзный ущерб деревьям, шишка, клён, груша, посадить дерево.

Ex. 3 Read the text.

Trees in winter

Tree Buds in Winter

When do you think that buds appear on trees? In the spring? Or maybe at the end of winter? Well, trees actually form their buds during the summer, usually in August! Since trees are dormant during the winter, they don't have the energy to grow structures that are that small and complex! Buds aren't very apparent in the fall and throughout the entire winter. In the spring, however, they swell and are ready to open.

Tree Leaves in Winter

All hardwoods, or broad-leaved trees, lose their leaves in the winter. Winter seems, however, to catch some of them – such as young beeches and oaks – unawares. Their shriveled, brown leaves make them easy to spot in the winter. Maybe the surrounding trees provide better protection for them. After falling on the ground, leaves gradually rot or decompose. In a number of years, this puts nutrients into the soil that the tree can use to produce new leaves. Adverse weather conditions, such as ice or sudden temperature changes, and animals that feed on trees can affect the development of new leaves.

Conifers in Winter

Conifer leaves are called needles. Fir and spruce tress have needles. What is the only conifer that loses its needles in the winter? It's the tamarack. By retaining their needles throughout the winter, conifers provide essential refuge and food sources to wildlife. Unlike broad-leaved trees, conifers can bear snow on their branches, which reduces the amount of snow on the ground. Since conifer forests are denser than their hardwood counterparts, they greatly reduce the speed of wintery winds.

Tree Flowers in Winter

When present, flowers on trees spend the winter as buds. Trees don't flower until they are mature enough. Flowers are important. If there weren't any flowers, there wouldn't be any seeds. Without seeds, there wouldn't be any new trees. During the winter, red squirrels and

hares can cause considerable damage to trees: squirrels tear off the pine cones; hares eat the buds and bark.

If you want to store tree seeds over the winter, keep them cold. Otherwise, they may not germinate the following spring. Examine them carefully! Some tiny insects sleep the winter away in seeds. Some seeds, such as sugar maple keys, won't last much more than a year. Seeds from other species, such as the pin cherry, can remain vital in the soil for 75 to 150 years.

Fruit in Winter

All trees have fruit, if not seeds. You should be able to come up with a number of fruit and their trees: the apple and the apple tree; the pear and the pear tree; and the orange and the orange tree, to name just a few. The seeds are found inside the fruit. If you plant an apple seed, an apple tree will grow. If you plant an apple from which the seeds have been removed, nothing will grow. The important part is the seed. The seed contains all the genetic information needed to grow a tree. The fruit develops once the flower has been fertilized by pollen. Each species of tree has its own kind of fruit, which ripens at different times of the year.

Comprehension check

Ex. 4 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 Trees actually form their buds during the summer.

2 Cedar trees have needles.

3 Unlike broad-leaved trees, conifers can’t bear snow on their branches.

4 Seeds from other species, such as the pin cherry, can remain vital in the soil for 75 to 150 years.

5 The seeds are found inside the fruit.

6 During the winter, red squirrels and hares can be of considerable use to trees.

Ex. 5 Choose the correct variant.

1 Since trees are dormant during the winter, they don't have the energy to grow structures that are that small and (simple / complex!)

2 All (hardwoods / softwoods), lose their leaves in the winter.

3 (Adverse / favourable) weather conditions, such as ice or sudden temperature changes, and animals that feed on trees can affect the development of new leaves.

4 Unlike broad-leaved trees, conifers can bear snow on their branches, which (increases / reduces) the amount of snow on the ground.

5 If you want to store tree seeds over the winter, keep them (cold / warm).

6 The fruit develops once the flower has been (germinated / fertilized) by pollen.

Ex. 6 Insert the missing information.

1 After falling on the ground, leaves … .

2 Conifer leaves are called … .

3 Adverse weather conditions, such as ice or sudden temperature changes, and animals that feed on trees can … .

4 Since conifer forests are denser than their hardwood counterparts, they … .

5 Trees don't flower until … .

6 If you plant an apple from which the seeds have been removed ....

Ex. 7 Answer the questions.

1 When do buds appear on a tree?

2 What can protect a tree from a wintery wind?

3 What happens to leaves after they fall down?

4 What is the only conifer that loses its needles in the winter?

5 In what cases can’t seeds germinate in spring?

6 As a result of what does the fruit develop?

Ex.8 Word search.

a) Petal b) sepal c) branches d) fruit e) stem f) trunk g) roots h) flower i) leaves

l	e	a	v	e	s	w	e	r	t	y	u	o	b	p	l	s

a	z	c	f	g	h	e	y	h	j	e	t	r	r	o	p	t
o	p	l	e	r	q	f	p	a	s	d	r	b	a	h	j	e
a	s	f	z	x	v	l	b	a	n	m	u	w	n	e	t	m
f	r	u	i	t	y	o	u	i	l	o	n	s	c	d	f	h
a	z	l	k	j	h	w	f	d	r	t	k	y	h	u	i	o
m	n	b	v	c	x	e	z	a	s	w	e	r	e	f	g	h
e	f	r	t	y	u	r	i	k	l	b	g	d	s	s	a	h
m	j	h	g	t	e	r	a	s	v	g	h	r	o	o	t	s
p	e	t	a	l	r	e	y	u	i	w	q	a	s	m	n	l

Text 4 Diameter growth

Vocabulary

Cell – клетка;
concentric – концентрический;
circle – круг;
ring (annual rings) – кольцо (годичные кольца);
cambium – камбий;
cross section – поперечный разрез;
circumference – окружность, периферия, округа;
age – возраст;
species (pl. species) вид (виды)
portion – порция, часть;
to take on (to take on a darker colour) – брать, приобретать (приобретать более тёмный цвет).

Ex.2 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

Diameter, growth, each, cell, circle, concentric, amount, outer, to produce, numerous, earlywood, light, light-coloured, towards, to manufacture, thin, thick, to appear, therefore, nevertheless, completely, closest, circumference, heart, heartwood, dead, portion, recent, age, species, often, insect, fir, birch, raw, strong, strengthl.

Ex. 3 Give the English equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Кора, смола, грибок, лист, слой (пласт), незрелый, состоять из, тем не менее, загнивать, сердцевина, рост, годичные кольца, количество древесины, поперечный разрез, рост замедляется, появляться, активный, неактивный, окружность, мёртвая часть дерева, живая часть дерева, зависеть от, возраст, часто, редко.

Ex. 4 Read the text.

Diameter growth

Each year, the tree forms new cells, arranged in concentric circles called annual rings or annual growth rings. These annual rings show the amount of wood produced during one growing season.

The growing season begins in the spring. At first, the cambium produces numerous large cells with thin walls that form the springwood (earlywood). If you look at a cross section of a tree, this is the light-coloured ring.

Then, towards the end of the summer, growth slows down. The cells manufactured at this time of year are small, with thick walls. They form the summerwood (latewood) which appears as a darker ring on the tree cross section.

One year of growth is therefore represented by a ring consisting of a light part and a dark part. The darker wood is not formed in winter, as some people believe, because the cambium is completely inactive in the winter.

The following year, a new two-part ring is added. The older rings are closest to the centre of the tree. The tree grows in diameter because it manufactures new cells around its circumference, not because the old cells get larger.

The old annual rings form the heartwood of inactive cells: this is the dead part of the tree. The live portion includes only the most recent rings. Depending on the tree's age and species, this portion is 1.5 to 7.5 cm wide. The dead wood is the largest part of the tree. Often, it takes on a darker colour.

Comprehension check

Ex. 5 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 These annual rings show the amount of wood produced during two growing seasons.
2 The growing season begins in the autumn.
3 Towards the end of the summer, growth slows down.
4 The darker wood is formed in winter because the cambium is active in the winter.
5 The older rings are closest to the centre of the tree.
6 The dead wood is the largest part of the tree.

Ex. 6 Choose the correct variant.

1 The cambium produces numerous large cells with (thick / thin) walls that form the springwood.
2 The cells manufactured at the end of the summer are (small / large)
3 One year of growth is represented by a ring consisting of a (light / dark) part.
4 The cambium is completely (inactive / active) in the winter.
5 The tree grows in diameter because (the old cells get larger / it manufactures new cells around its circumference).
6 The old annual rings form the heartwood of inactive cells: this is the (dead / live) part of the tree.

Ex. 7 Insert the missing information.

1 Each year, the tree forms new cells, arranged in concentric circles called … .
2 If you look at a … of a tree, this is the light-coloured ring.
3 The cells manufactured at … are small, with thick walls.
4The darker wood is not formed in winter because … .
5 The … are closest to the centre of the tree.
6The live portion includes only … rings.

Ex. 8 Answer the questions.

1 What do the annual rings show?
2 When does the growth of the annual rings begin?
3 Why are some of the rings dark and some – light?
4 What is the heartwood?
5 Have you ever seen annual rings?

Ex.8 Read and translate the supplementary text.

Why do leaves fall?

A tree's roots, branches and twigs can endure freezing temperatures, but most leaves are not so tough. On a broadleaf tree -- say a maple or a birch -- the tender thin leaves, made up of cells filled with water sap, will freeze in winter. Any plant tissue unable to live through the winter must be sealed off and shed to ensure the tree's survival.

As sunlight decreases in autumn, the veins that carry sap into and out of a leaf gradually close. A layer of cells, called the separation layer, forms at the base of the leaf stem. When this layer is complete, the leaf is separated from the tissue that connected it to the branch, and it falls. Oak leaves are the exception. The separation layer never fully detaches the dead oak leaves, and they remain on the tree through winter.

Unit 2 Forest Plants

Text 1 Deciduous Forest Plants

Vocabulary

Hickory – гикори (род североамериканского орешника);
canopy – прикрытие;
stature – высота (особенно дерева);
shrub – куст;

capture – захватывать, поглощать;
seal off – запаивать наглухо; герметически заделывать.

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

deciduous trees, evergreen, top layer, moderately dense, lichen, light-weight leaves, photosynthesis, tissue, climatic conditions, chlorophyll, associated with.

Ex. 2 Read the text.

Deciduous Forest Plants

Trees of the biome include both broadleaf, deciduous trees, such as maple, oak, hickory, and beech, and evergreens, such as hemlock, spruce, and fir. A deciduous forest typically has three to four, and sometimes five, layers of plant growth.

Tall deciduous trees make up the top layer of plant growth, and they create a moderately dense forest canopy. Although the canopy is moderately dense, it does allow sunlight to reach the forest floor. This sunlight allows plants in the other layers to grow. The second layer of plant growth includes saplings and species of trees that are naturally shorter in stature. A third layer (or understory) would include shrubs. Forest herbs, such as wildflowers and berries, make up a fourth layer. During the spring, before the deciduous trees leaf out, these herbs bloom and grow quickly in order to take advantage of the sunlight. A fifth layer would include mosses and lichens that grow on tree trunks.

In the spring, deciduous trees begin producing thin, broad, light-weight leaves. This type of leaf structure easily captures the sunlight needed for food production (photosynthesis). The broad leaves are great when temperatures are warm and there is plenty of sunlight. However, when temperatures are cold, the broad leaves expose too much surface area to water loss and tissue damage. To help prevent this damage from occurring, deciduous trees make internal and physical adaptations that are triggered by changes in the climate.

Cooler temperatures and limited sunlight are two climatic conditions that tell the tree to begin adapting. In the Fall, when these conditions occur, the tree cuts off the supply of water to the leaves and seals off the area between the leaf stem and the tree trunk. With

limited sunlight and water, the leaf is unable to continue producing chlorophyll, the "green" stuff in the leaves, and as the chlorophyll decreases the leaves change color. The beautiful display of brilliant red, yellow, and gold leaves, associated with deciduous forests in the Fall, is a result of this process. Most deciduous trees shed their leaves, once the leaves are brown and dry.

Comprehension check

Ex. 3 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 A deciduous forest typically has five to seven layers of plant growth.

2 The canopy is moderately dense, but it does allow sunlight to reach the forest floor.

3 Forest herbs, such as wildflowers and berries, make up a first layer.

4 Thin, broad, light-weight leaves of deciduous trees easily captures the sunlight needed for food production.

5 Deciduous trees make external and physical adaptations that are triggered by changes in the climate.

6 Chlorophyll - the "green" stuff in the leaves that changes the color of the leaves.

Ex. 4 Insert the missing information.

1 Trees of the Deciduous Forest biome include both …, deciduous trees and … .

2 The … layer of plant growth includes saplings and species of trees that are naturally … .

3 A … layer would include mosses and lichens that grow on tree trunks.

4 The broad leaves are great when temperatures are … and there is plenty of … .

5 … temperatures and … sunlight are two climatic conditions that tell the tree to begin adapting.

6 With … sunlight and water, the leaf is unable to … … chlorophyll.

Ex. 5 Answer the questions.

1 How many layers of plant growth does a deciduous forest typically have?

2 What are the layers?

3 In what way do trees capture sunlight?

4 Can deciduous trees make any adaptations to changes in the climate?

5 What happens to a tree in Autumn?

6 Why do leaves change colours?

Ex.6 Read and translate the supplementary text.

What is the largest flower in the world?

The largest flower in the world, the rafflesia arnoldi, weighs 7 kg (15 pounds) and grows only on the Sumatra and Borneo islands of Indonesia. Its petals grow to 1 metre long and 2,5 cm thick.There are 16 species of rafflesia, found in Sumatra, Malaysia, Philippines and Borneo. The species is named after the naturalist Sir Stamford Raffles, who founded the British colony of Singapore in 1819. Raffles discovered the parasitic plant with his friend Dr. Joseph Arnold during their travels in May 1818. The rafflesia arnoldi is named after the two.

However fascinating and beautiful the rafflesia arnoldi may be, it is also called “corpse flower” and really reeks, the latter to attract flies for pollination.

Of about 200,000 kinds of flowers in the world, the smallest is the duckweed, which can only be seen with a microscope.

Text 2 Carpet moss

Vocabulary

Moss – мох, лишайник;
evergreen – вечнозелёный, неувядающий;
habitat – среда обитания, место распространения;
taper off - суживаться к концу;

margin – край;
serrated – зазубренный, пилообразный;
pore – пора;
nutrient – питательное вещество.

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

Rootless, stream beds, deciduous, velvety, margin, aquatic, moisture, female structures, fertilize, sporophyte, capsules.

Ex. 2 Read the text.

Carpet moss

Mosses are simple, rootless evergreen plants. They can live in a wide variety of habitats, but are most often found covering the ground, growing on stream beds, and on the base of trees in deciduous woodlands. Carpet moss grows in eastern North America and Europe.

Carpet moss, like its name, carpets the ground. In the spring the carpet moss is golden green, and turns dark green as it gets older. It looks almost velvety. Its leaves grow parallel to each other and taper off to a point at the end. The edges of the leaves have long, narrow cells which grow in pairs and make the margins look serrated.

Mosses originated from aquatic plants and still have a lot of things in common with them. Arctic moss actually survives the bitter cold of the arctic by growing under water. They absorb water through pores which always stay open, and require constant moisture. They don't have true roots, stems or leaves. They reproduce through spores and not through seeds.

Carpet moss reproduces both sexually and asexually. When producing sexually, depending on weather conditions, mosses produce small female structures that produce egg cells, or male structures that produce sperm cells. These can grow on different parts of the same plant. The sperms fertilize the eggs and develop into a spore-plant, or sporophyte. The sporophyte begins to grow from the female plant, taking nutrients from its parent because it can't produce its own food. This sporophyte is the long stalk with a small capsule on the end that you often see growing out of carpet moss. The capsules produce the

spores. When conditions are dry, the capsules open and release the spores. These spores grow into the leafy male or female mosses.

Moss can also reproduce asexually when bits of stem or leaves are separated from the plant and develop into new plants.

Many people use carpet moss as a ground cover in gardening. Many years ago, people used to stuff their beds with Carpet Moss because they thought it made them sleep better.

Comprehension check

Ex. 3 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 Carpet moss grows in eastern South America and Europe.

2 . In the spring the carpet moss is golden green, and turns dark green as it gets older.

3 The edges of the leaves have short, wide cells.

4 Arctic moss actually cannot survive the bitter cold of the arctic growing under water.

5 Arctic moss doesn't have true roots, stems or leaves.

6 Moss can reproduce asexually.

Ex. 4 Insert the missing information.

1 Mosses are simple, … evergreen plants.

2 The leaves grow … to each other and … to a point at the end.

3 Mosses originated from … … and still have a lot of things in common with them.

4 Carpet moss reproduces both … and … .

5 When conditions are …, the capsules open and … the spores.

6 Many years ago, people used to … their beds with Carpet Moss because they thought it made them … better.

Ex. 5 Answer the questions.

1 Where can mosses live?

2 What does carpet moss look like?

3 Did mosses originate from aquatic plants?

4 How does the plant reproduce?

5 In what way do people use carpet moss?

Text 3 Guelder Rose

Vocabulary

Altitude – высота;
hedgerow – живая изгородь, полезащитная полоса;
clay – глина;
shrub – кустарник;
fertile – плодоносный;
self-pollinate – самоопаляющийся;
invasive – агрессивный;
cramps – колики.

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

Semi-shade, woodlands, marshes, agricultural zones, relatively, acidic soil, cultivated, honey-suckle, petals, pollinate, spread, sterile, invasive, medicine, asthma, source.

Ex. 2 Read the text.

Guelder rose

The Guelder Rose prefers to grow at low altitudes and in semi-shade in Scotland and England. It is native to the woodlands of the European deciduous forest. It is found at the edges of woods, hedgerows and marshes. In the United States it is found in agricultural zones 3 to 8, which is a relatively cool climate. It grows in both heavy clay and acidic soil. It was first cultivated in Gelderland, a Dutch province, then introduced to England.

The Guelder Rose is a deciduous shrub and a member of the honey-suckle family. This shrub is also like the Common Elder. The Guelder Rose's flower is snowy white with flat heads which are 3 to 5 inches across. The flower is wheel shaped and the outer flowers have five petals and are sterile. The inner flowers are fertile and very small.

They provide nectar for the insects that pollinate them. The flowers turn into red berries. The Guelder Rose is beautiful in August when the berries are ripe, and the leaves turn to a bright red or rich purple before falling. It has maple-like leaves. This shrub can grow to 5 to 10 feet high.

The berries are bright red and attract birds that spread the seeds. The very large white outer layer of flowers also attracts pollinating insects to the inner part of the flower. Some can self-pollinate. Some species are sterile and don't have berries. It is an invasive shrub and will take over another plant's area and is able to spread out for more sunlight.

Its bark is used as an herbal medicine for cramps and asthma. The berries can be used for ink. It is also used as a decorative shrub. In Canada it is used instead of cranberries. It is an important food source for insects and birds who eat the nectar and the berries.

Comprehension check

Ex. 3 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 The Guelder is native to the woodlands of the European deciduous forest.

2 It was first cultivated in a German province, then introduced to England.

3 The Guelder Rose's flower is sky blue with flat heads.

4 The outer flowers are fertile and very small.

5 Some species are sterile and don't have berries.

6 Its bark is used as an herbal medicine for cramps and asthma.

Ex. 4 Insert the missing information.

1 The Guelder Rose is found at the edges of …, … and … .

2 The flower is … shaped and the … flowers have … petals and are sterile.

3 They provide nectar for the … that pollinate them.

4 The … are bright red and attract birds that spread the seeds.

5 It is an important … source for insects and … who eat the nectar and the berries.

Ex. 5 Answer the questions.

1 Where does the Guelder Rose grow?
2 What does it look like?
3 How is the plant pollinated?
4 What parts of the Guelder Rose are used in medicine?
5 In what other ways is the plant used?

Ex.6 Read and translate the supplementary text.

Plant with incredible endurance

The look of this plan is not good at all. But this plant is so unique. The plant come from Namibia and just having 2 leaves and 1 stem and root. The 2 leaves will become larger alike alien. The stem will grow bigger but not taller. This plant will grow and some of them can reach 2 meters in height and 8 meters in width. The age of the plant can reach 400 to 1500 years and will not die even there's no rain for 5 years. The taste of this plant is so sting, whether It's raw or cooked. That's way the plant are called Onyanga that mean a desert onion.

Text 4 Lady Fern

Vocabulary

Fern – папоротник;
casing – оболочка;
thicket – заросли, дебри;
hemlock – тсуга;
scaly – чешуйчатый;
labour pains –родовые схватки

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

Hanging, Victorian times, especially, J-shaped, meadows, area, outwards, reproduce, rhizomes, major, fiddlehead, raw, urination, childbirth, worm, blindness, endangered.

Ex. 2 Read the text.

Lady fern

You may have Lady fern in your own house. Many people use it to decorate their homes. You may see it hanging or potted. People in Victorian times were crazy about Lady fern. However, Lady fern is not only found in the house. It also grows in the wild, especially in deciduous forests and the taiga of North America and Eurasia.

Lady Fern is a deciduous, perennial fern about 24 to 36 inches tall. Its light green, lacy leaves are about 24 to 30" long and 6 to 9" wide and tapered at both ends. The fronds are cut twice and grow from a central base. The J-shaped spore casings grow on the underside of the leaf.

In the wild, Lady ferns can be found growing in meadows, open thickets, moist woods, and along stream beds. They also grow in the cracks of rocks. In the taiga it usually grows in the understory of white spruce, black spruce, Douglas-fir and western hemlock. Lady ferns prefer shaded areas.

Many Lady ferns will grow in a group in the shape of a circle. As they grow farther and farther outwards, the centers die away, leaving a ring of Lady Ferns. Lady ferns reproduce by thick, scaly rhizomes and spores. They grow in most semi-shaded areas.

Grizzly bears like to eat Lady ferns as a major food source. Elk will also eat it also. Native Americans had many uses for Lady ferns. They used lady ferns for drying berries on, and covering food. The young shoots, or fiddleheads, were cooked, baked or eaten raw. Tea was made from the leaves to help urination and to stop breast pain caused by childbirth. The tea was also used to ease labour pains. Roots were dried and ground into a dust to help heal wounds. Oil from the roots of Lady ferns has been used since the 1st century AD to get rid of worms. An overdose could cause weakness, coma, and often blindness.

Lady ferns are a dominant plant in the understory of the taiga, and will cover the forest floor. It is not an endangered plant.

Comprehension check

Ex. 3 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 Lady fern is found only in the house.
2 The fronds are cut twice and grow from a central base.
3 Lady ferns prefer light areas.
4 Lady ferns reproduce by seeds.
5 Tea was made from the roots to help urination and to stop breast pain caused by childbirth.
6 Oil from the roots of Lady ferns has been used since the 1st century BC to get rid of worms.

Ex. 4 Insert the missing information.

1 It also grows in the …, especially in deciduous forests and the … of North America and Eurasia.
2 The fronds are cut … and grow from a central base.
3 As they grow farther and farther outwards, the centers …, leaving a … of Lady Ferns.
4 They used lady ferns for drying … on, and covering … .
5 Roots were … and ground into a dust to help heal … .
6 An overdose could cause …, coma, and often … .

Ex.5 Speak about Lady Fern using the plan.

1 Shape and size.
2 Habitat.
3 Reproduction.
4 Use.

Ex.6 Read and translate the supplementary text.

What a lady fern can do for you?

This plant is very familiar to all of us-right? It is called 'Lady fern', an ornamental plant. We would have never thought its decorative purpose.

However, it is a medicinal plant. The juices of the leaves of Lady Fern will cure the stinging feeling caused when we accidentally touch nettles.

The Africans crush the leaves on their palms to heal minor cut injuries.

Some species of Lady Fern leaves are used to make organic tea to cure cough.

Unit 3 Wild animals

Text 1 The Red Deer

Vocabulary

Encompass – заключать;
stag – олень-самец;
hind – самка благородного оленя;
lichen – лишайник;
acorn – жёлудь;
antler – олений рог;
contend – бороться;

Ex. 1 Give the English equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Поразительный размер, самые холодные регионы, пол животного, хвост, среда обитания, создавать, лес, луг, климат, сезонные растения, хищник.

Ex. 2 Read the text.

The Red Deer

The Red Deer (Cervus elaphus) is one of the largest deer species in the world. Its remarkable size is amazing when you consider that most of its habitat encompasses many of Europe and Asia's coldest regions. This makes it interesting to study the Red Deer's habitat, its diet and its physical attributes.

The Red Deer's massive size is due in large part to its larger-than-normal physical attributes.

These attributes vary according to the gender of the animal. Stags are usually 175 to 230 cm long and weigh anywhere from 160 to 240 kg. Hinds tend to be 160 to 210 cm long and weigh 120 to 170 kg. Their tails are also unusually long. They tend to be 12 to 19 cm in length.

Furthermore, it has one of the largest varieties of habitats in the world. The Red Deer is native to Europe, Asia Minor, the Caucasus Mountains and the Atlas Mountains in Africa. It also lives in Australia, New Zealand, South America because it was introduced into those areas by well-meaning humans. This wide geographic distribution has created unique habitats for the Red Deer. These habitats include woodland areas, forests and grasslands. This variety of habitats has created several sub-species of the Red Deer that are acclimated to the climates of these regions.

Its diet includes a variety of seasonal plants and grasses. Red Deer like to eat seasonal grasses, lichen, mosses and leaves. If these foods are not available, Red Deer will also eat acorns, fruits and nuts that have fallen from trees. Stags will occasionally look for salt licks and other mineral deposits to keep their antlers in top condition.

They have several predators that keep healthier populations in check. The main predators of most Red Deer species are humans and domestic dogs. This is true because hunters in Europe, Asia and Africa enjoy hunting the Red Deer for sport and for food. The Red Deer also has to contend with wild wolves that tend to hunt for older or sicker animals. These predators have kept wild Red Deer populations in check throughout most of the world.

Comprehension check

Ex. 3 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 The Red Deer (Cervus elaphus) is the largest animal in the world.

2 The wide geographic distribution has created unique habitats for the Red Deer.

3 Stags will occasionally look for sugar licks and other mineral deposits to keep their antlers in top condition.

4 The main predators of most Red Deer species are wolves.

5 Hunters enjoy hunting the Red Deer for sport and for food.

Ex. 4 Choose the correct variant.

1 Most of the habitat of the Red Deer encompasses many of Europe and Asia's (warmest / coldest) regions.

2 (Hinds / Stags) tend to be 160 to 210 cm long and weigh 120 to 170 kg.

3 The Red Deer is native to (Asia / Australia).

4 The main (friends / predators) of most Red Deer species are humans and domestic dogs.

5 The Red Deer also has to contend with wild wolves that tend to hunt for (older or sicker / younger or healthier) animals.

6 These habitats include (forests and grasslands / deserts).

Ex. 5 Insert the missing information.

1 The Red Deer's … size is due in large part to its larger-than-normal physical … .

2 The Red Deer is … to Europe, Asia Minor, the Caucasus Mountains and the Atlas Mountains in Africa.

3 The variety of habitats has created several … of the Red Deer that are acclimated to the climates of various regions.

4 Red Deer like to eat … grasses, lichen, mosses and … .

5 … will occasionally look for salt licks and other mineral deposits to keep their … in top condition.

6 Red Deer have several predators that keep … populations in check.

Ex. 6 Answer the questions.

1 What is the habitat of the Red Deer?

2 Do the physical attributes of the animal vary according to the gender? In what way?

3 What does the diet of Red Deer include?

4 Who hunts the deer?

Ex.7 Fill in the table. Give as much information as you can.

Classification	The Red Deer
Type	
Diet	
Lifespan	
Description Size Weight color	
Habitat	
Amazing Fact	

Text 2 Long-tailed field mouse

Vocabulary
Rodent – грызун;
In abundance – изобиловать, иметься в изобилии;
Randomly – случайно, наугад;
Bury – закапывать;
Transmit – передавать.

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

Field mouse, a typical feature, a common species, widespread, adequate shelter, burrows and tunnels, invertebrates, physically, moderately haired, a highly developed sense, gestation period, sexual maturity.

Ex. 2 Give the English equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Семейство, хвост, остров, нора, запасать, беспозвоночные, насекомые, ягода, корень, шерсть, высокоразвитый, масса тела, важность, овощи, урожай, заболевание.

Ex. 3 Read the text.

Long-tailed field mouse

The long-tailed field mouse (Apodemus Sylvaticus), also called the wood mouse belongs to the Muridae, a family of rodents and is commonly found in almost all parts of the world. A typical feature of the wood mouse is that it can shed off its tail, if caught by it and this never grows back.

The long-tailed field mouse is a common species and is found throughout Western Europe with the exception of Finland and northern Scandinavia. As it is a widespread species it is also found in Asia, northwestern Africa, Himalayas, British Isles and in nearby islands. They can cohabitate with the humans if adequate shelter is not available. Otherwise they live in burrows and tunnels built below the ground, either by themselves or by other animals.

Basically seed eaters, they also store them, if found in abundance. When the seeds are least available they also eat small invertebrates like insects and snails and also eat fruits, berries and roots.

Physically, the long-tailed field mouse is a small rodent. It has a head and body length of 60-150 mm and the length of the tail is between 70 to 145 mm. Although, the field mouse is moderately haired, its fur is soft and has a grayish brown or pale sand body color. These rodents have a highly developed sense of smell and so do not dig for seeds randomly.

Months from February to October are the breeding months of the field mouse. Females usually produce four litters in the breeding months and each litter has four to seven young mice. The gestation period is between 21-26 days. The body mass of these rodents at birth is a meager 2.5g and are weaned away after three weeks and they reach sexual maturity at about two months.

If we look at the economic importance of these rodents, there is usually a mixed response. The negative aspect lies in the fact that they are considered as pests as these rodents inflict serious damage to vegetable and cultivated farmlands. They dig up seeds before germination and completely destroy crop grasses. However, sometimes they are also considered as carriers of tree seeds and transport and bury these seeds. But this aspect is yet to be studied in

detail. On the disease front, the African variant of the wood mouse is known to transmit the Hantavirus to the humans which is a life threatening virus.

Comprehension check

Ex. 4 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 A typical feature of the wood mouse is that it can shed off its tail, if caught by it and it then grows back.

2 The mice can cohabitate with the humans if adequate shelter is not available.

3 The wood mouse stores seeds, if found in abundance.

4 The fur of a field mouse has a brownish gray or pale sand color.

5 February and October are the breeding months of the field mouse.

6 There is usually a mixed response to the economic importance of these rodents.

Ex. 5 Insert the missing information.

1 The long-tailed field mouse, also called the … … belongs to the Muridae, a family of … and is commonly found in almost all parts of the world.

2 As it is a … species it is also found in Asia, northwestern Africa, Himalayas, British Isles and in … islands.

3 The mice live in … and … built below the ground, either by themselves or by other animals.

4 When the seeds are least available they also eat small … like insects and snails and also eat …, berries and ….

5 These rodents have a highly developed sense of … and so do not dig for seeds … .

6 The … aspect lies in the fact that they are considered as pests as these rodents inflict serious … to vegetable and cultivated farmlands.

Ex.6 Fill in the table. Give as much information as you can.

Classification	The long-tailed field mouse

Type	
Diet	
Lifespan	
Description Size Weight color	
Habitat	
Amazing Fact	

Ex.7 Read and translate the supplementary text

What is the difference between insects and spiders ?

Despite the visual similarities between the two both are actually members of distinct families. Spiders are members of the Arachnid family whilst insects belong to the Insect family. So what makes the two families different ?

Well for starters spiders have 8 legs whilst insects have just 6. Insects have 3 distinct body parts, a head, thorax and abdomen whilst spiders have just 2, a combined head and thorax known as the cephalothorax and an abdomen.

As well as the above, other interesting differences include the eyes. Spiders have simple eyes whilst insects have compound eyes. Spiders have piercing jaws whilst insects have jaws which are more suitable for chewing. All spiders can make silk thread (although not all spiders spin webs) whilst most insects cannot. Spiders can't fly where as many insects have wings allowing them to do so.

So yes to the untrained eye there is indeed very little visual difference but if you look really hard then they're actually worlds apart.

Text 3 European mink

Vocabulary

Forage – добывать продовольствие;
offspring – отпрыск, потомок;

wanton – несдержанный, необузданный;
swamp – болото;
nocturnal – активный в ночное время;
solitary – одинокий; одиночный;
marshland – болотистая местность.

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

Endangered mammal species, arched body, semi-aquatic life, similar appearance, has declined considerably, extinction, emerge, considerably greater, wanderer, semi-aquatic animals.

Ex. 2 Translate the words. State the parts of speech and underline the suffixes.

Bushy, blackish, semi-aquatic, terrestrial, appearance, simply, easily, extinction, wanderer, gestation.

Ex. 3 Read the text

European mink

The European Mink (Mustela Lutreola) is considered as an endangered mammal species in Europe. The medium-sized European Mink has short legs, a bushy and short tail, and a long slim arched body. Its coat is blackish brown with white bands on the upper and lower jaws, sometimes including the throat. It can adapt to semi-aquatic life with its partly webbed feet which aid it in swimming, diving, and hunting underwater. Its eyes, however, are not well-adapted to see underwater prey and on the ground also, it has to depend on its sense of smell to forage terrestrial prey.

An adult European Mink female weighs about 600 grams. The length of its body can be 28 to 43 cm and its total length up to its tail is 35 to 58 cm.

Although both the male and the female have a similar appearance, males are a lot larger. The reason of this difference can be attributed to the fact that males have to fight for territories and mates, while females feed and protect themselves and their offspring. A larger

female may end up feeding itself by simply consuming more food. The young ones are quite similar to the adults.

Until the 19th century, the European Mink was easily found in the whole of the European Continent but because of wanton hunting, its population has declined considerably and has greatly reduced. Today, it is on the verge of extinction and is seen only in some parts of Eastern Europe, France, and Spain and that too, on a very rare basis.

European minks are nocturnal animals and emerge only in night in search of food. They eat small animals like birds, vole, frogs, fish, crabs, and insects. They hunt in water, in swamps, on land, and burrows making their range of hunting considerably greater. The mink is known as a wanderer and rarely uses the same den. They are solitary mammals, except during the period from February to March, which is their breeding season. The gestation period lasts for 5 to 10 weeks and the female gives birth during spring because at that time the food is found in abundance. Their weaning period is about 10 weeks and the babies leave the den when they are 12 to 18 weeks old. After one year, the babies become mature and live up to only six years.

These semi-aquatic animals are found at nearby fresh water. They inhabit the shaded banks of rivers, lake shores, marshlands, and streams. One may also find them in burrows and muskrat huts. They make dens using grass, leaves feathers, and fur under trees, on stream banks, and in drift piles.

Comprehension check

Ex. 4 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 The European Mink has short legs, a bushy and long tail, and a long slim arched body.

2 Its eyes, however, are well-adapted to see underwater prey and on the ground also, it has to depend on its sense of smell to forage terrestrial prey.

3 Although both the male and the female have a similar appearance, females are a lot larger.

4 European minks are nocturnal animals and emerge only in night in search of food.

5 After half a year, the babies become mature and live up to only six years.

6 They inhabit the shaded banks of rivers, lake shores, marshlands, and streams.

Ex. 5 Insert the missing information.

1 It can adapt to … life with its partly webbed feet which aid it in swimming, diving, and … underwater.

2 The reason of the difference between the male and the female can be attributed to the fact that … have to fight for territories and mates, while … feed and protect themselves and their offspring.

3 Today, it is on the verge of … and is seen only in some parts of Eastern Europe, France, and Spain and that too, on a very … basis.

4 They eat small … like birds, vole, frogs, fish, crabs, and insects.

5 These semi-aquatic animals are found at nearby … water.

6 They make … using grass, leaves, feathers, and fur under …, on stream …, and in drift piles.

Ex.6 Read and translate the supplementary text.

Most Dangerous Animal In Africa ?

Apart from snakes and insects the hippopotamus kills more people in Africa than any other! It’s a statistic which many find shocking especially because they’re not actually meat eaters. So what makes the hippo so dangerous ?

Well to begin with they’re large, extremely bad tempered and surprisingly quick on both land and water. If you combine these factors with a strong set of jaws and large tusks you have an animal with an extremely destructive bite.

Most attacks seem to occur at watering holes or near to water where humans either come too close or simply disturb the hippo from a distance. So just remember next time you’re in Africa it’s not only the lions, cheetahs and crocodiles you need to worry about. Beware of the bad tempered hippo!

Ex.7 Circle the words in the puzzle and complete the sentences below.

What do animals have?

Elephants have long _____.
Lions have sharp _____.
Peacocks have soft _____.
Monkeys have long _____.
Crocodiles have short _____.
Tigers have sharp _____.
Polar bears have short _____.
Kangaroos have big _____.

tails trunks arms feathers claws feet legs teeth

B	**T**	**F**	**F**	**S**	**W**	**F**	**T**	**E**	**E**	**T**	**H**
V	**E**	**R**	**L**	**E**	**O**	**C**	**G**	**L**	**F**	**G**	**D**
A	**B**	**I**	**U**	**A**	**E**	**N**	**K**	**A**	**E**	**K**	**B**
J	**A**	**W**	**D**	**N**	**X**	**T**	**K**	**C**	**A**	**N**	**F**
T	**A**	**H**	**Z**	**U**	**K**	**D**	**D**	**K**	**T**	**Q**	**H**
J	**E**	**S**	**U**	**H**	**D**	**S**	**U**	**Q**	**H**	**R**	**C**
R	**C**	**T**	**T**	**V**	**L**	**O**	**U**	**H**	**E**	**P**	**J**
C	**L**	**A**	**W**	**S**	**A**	**B**	**B**	**I**	**R**	**Z**	**L**
E	**G**	**V**	**S**	**J**	**R**	**E**	**D**	**C**	**S**	**A**	**E**
V	**I**	**F**	**X**	**G**	**M**	**Y**	**Y**	**J**	**K**	**G**	**G**
C	**W**	**L**	**Z**	**O**	**S**	**N**	**L**	**F**	**J**	**F**	**S**
L	**H**	**T**	**S**	**L**	**I**	**A**	**T**	**U**	**I**	**R**	**Y**

Text 4 Eurasian beaver

Vocabulary

Beaver - бобр
light rust - рыжеватый
Muzzle - морда

Avid – жадный. (зд. любитель)

Ex.1 Make sure that you read the following words properly.

Eurasian beaver, species, unique, Sweden, China, facial, nocturnal, effective predators, specific area, the edge of extinction, in the wild.

Ex. 2 Translate the words. State the parts of speech and underline the suffixes.

Beaver, charming, plentiful, approximately, procreation, swimmer, nocturnal, member, interestingly.

Ex. 3 Read the text

Eurasian beaver

The Eurasian beaver (Castor fiber) is not only a charming animal, but a useful one as well. Throughout history, this species of beaver was considered valuable for its fur, which ranges in color from light rust to brown to black. Beaver fur has many uses, chief among which is the making of hats. In addition to its fur, the Eurasian beaver has a unique secretion known as castoreum; originating in the scent glands of the animal, it is believed to have medicinal properties.

The Eurasian beaver was once plentiful Eurasia, but due to these desirable characteristics it has been hunted extensively. The species is still recovering from reaching the brink of extinction at the beginning of the 20th century. Reintroduction programs in many European countries has brought the animal from a mere 1,200 known specimens to 639,000 by the end of 2003. Populations of Eurasian beaver are growing in countries such as Romania, Sweden, and Great Britain. They can still be found as far east as China.

A typical Eurasian beaver looks quite similar to the better-known North American beaver, though there are several notable differences. The Eurasian beaver, for example, is the larger of the two, weighing approximately 39.5 pounds (18 kg). Facial characteristics are different as well; the Eurasian beaver has a longer, narrower muzzle than its

North American cousin. Interestingly, the two species of beaver are related, but not genetically compatible for procreation.

The preferred habitat of the Eurasian beaver is on riverbanks in dense forests. Avid swimmers and divers, they live half their life in the water and half on land. They tend to be somewhat nocturnal, coming out of their cave homes at night to feed on twigs, bark, and river vegetation. Busy builders as well, they never eat the same type of trees that they use for constructing dams and lodges. These dams and lodges protect the beaver from predators, which include wolves, red foxes, and brown bears. In fact, their most effective predators have been humans.

Beavers tend to charm humans because they remind us of ourselves. They are quite social, and tend to live in families of 5 to 8 individuals. Often an older beaver couple "owns" a specific area or territory, and the other members of the group submit to them. The female member of this couple is most often the dominant one.

Though once brought to the edge of extinction, the Eurasian beaver (Castor fiber) is now increasing in populations throughout Europe and Asia. Though its fur and secretions are valuable to humans, this lovable animal is finally regaining its place in the wild.

Comprehension check

Ex. 4 Say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1 The Eurasian beaver is not only a charming animal, but a useful one as well.

2 The species is still recovering from reaching the brink of extinction at the beginning of the 19th century.

3 The Eurasian beaver has a shorter, wider muzzle than its North American cousin.

4 The preferred habitat of the Eurasian beaver is on the seashore.

5 They are quite unsocial, and tend to live individually.

Ex. 5 Insert the missing information.

1 The Eurasian beaver has a … … known as castoreum; originating in the scent glands of the animal,

2 Avid … and …, they live half their life in the water and half on land.

3 These dams and lodges protect the beaver from predators, which include … , … …, and … … .

4 The … member of this couple is most often the dominant one.

Ex.6 Arrange the statement in a right chronological order according to the text.

1 Beaver fur has many uses, chief among which is the making of hats.

2 Interestingly, the two species of beaver are related, but not genetically compatible for procreation.

3 The Eurasian beaver was once plentiful Eurasia, but due to these desirable characteristics it has been hunted extensively.

4 Often an older beaver couple "owns" a specific area or territory, and the other members of the group submit to them.

5 They tend to be somewhat nocturnal, coming out of their cave homes at night to feed on twigs, bark, and river vegetation.

1 Read the definitions and then label the pictures below

twig - a small thin branch of a tree or bush, especially one removed from the tree or bush and without any leaves

foliage - the leaves of a plant or tree, or leaves on the stems or branches on which they are growing

pine cone - the hard egg-shaped part of the pine tree which opens and releases seeds

branches - one of the parts of a tree that grows out from the main trunk and has leaves, flowers or fruit on it

canopy – the branches and leaves that spread out at the top of a group of trees forming a type of roof

roots - the part of a plant which grows down into the earth to get water and food and which holds the plant firm in the ground

trunk - the thick main stem of a tree, from which its branches grow

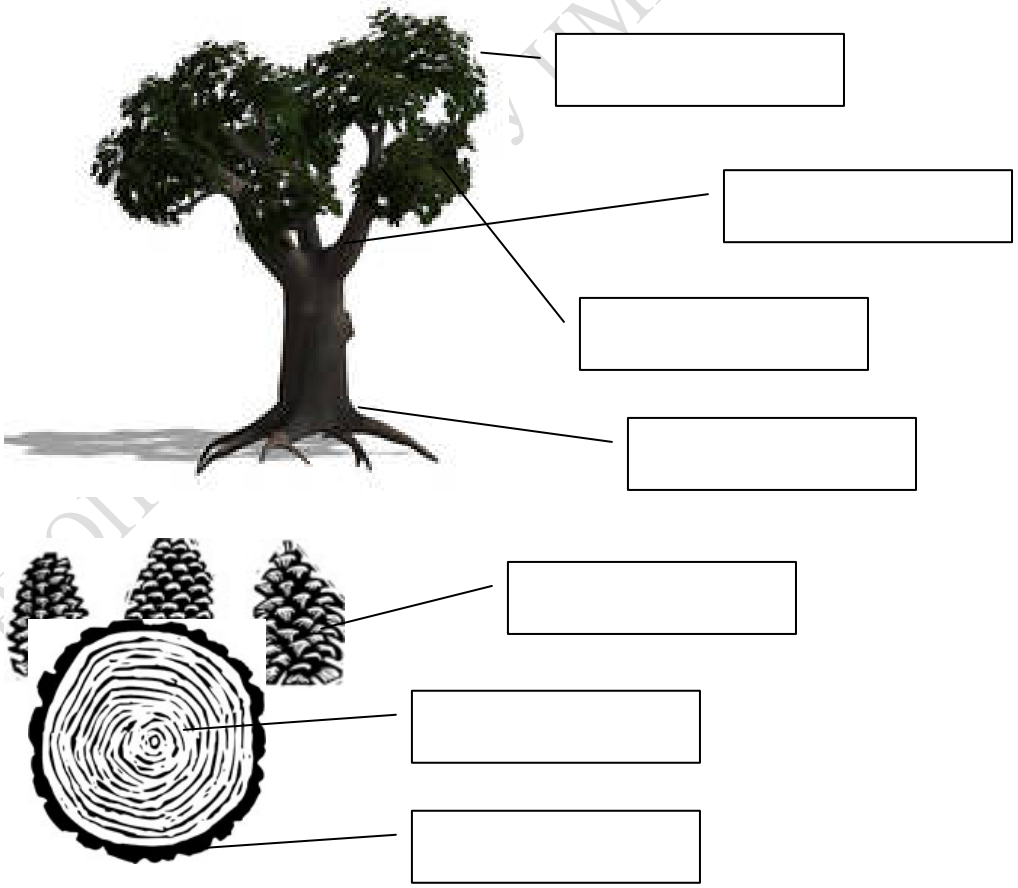
log - a thick piece of tree trunk or branch, especially one cut for burning on a fire

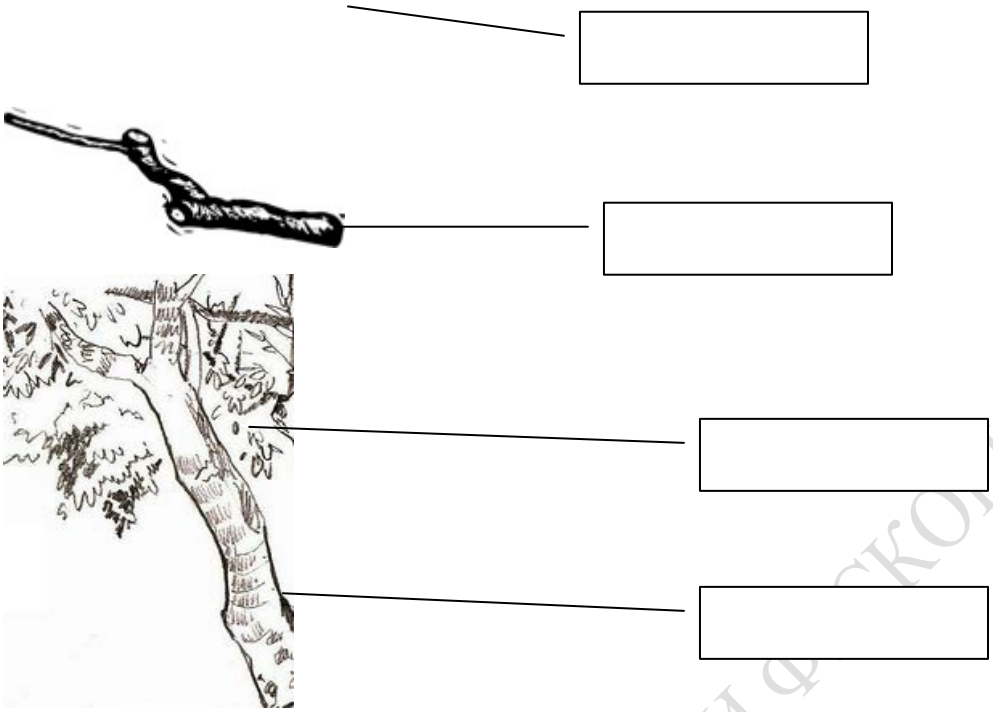
tree ring - one of the rings that you can see in a tree trunk (= centre part) if you cut through it, which shows one year's growth

acorn - an oval nut that grows on an oak tree and has an outer part shaped like a cup

bough - a large branch of a tree

bark - the hard outer covering of a tree





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